The Story of Tobacco in Cuba Crowded With Curious and Interesting Details.

clears is crowded with curious and inter- growing the plants. Whereas the wrapper

The best cigars in the world are made cigars are not made in Cuba at all. The cigar was a strong one and that a light one that was grown on the island.

a question of geography. The finest covered obacco in the world is grown in a certain district in the province of Pinar del wrappers started there were enough light ald be enshrined in the grateful memories of all levers of a good cigar.

Vuelta Abajo produces annually about quarter of a million bales of tobacco. These were deficient in the rich oil ans a tenth of this quantity comes from certain plantations, or vegas, which air grow tobacco unequalled anywhere \$20 or more a pound right in Havana, which is lifty times the price paid for the

Of all self-willed plants tobacco seems to be the most stubborn. There are certain spots in the heart of Vuelta Abajo throw from one of these fields will be anwhere tobacco won't grow at all or which produces a strange phenomenon known as jorro leaf. This word is pronounced a good deal like horror, an apmade of jorro leaf may look all right it has the somewhat serious defect of not

Serie land always grows this kind of tobacco. If with the aid of a bellows the demand for claro wrappers shade you could produce a mighty enough growing has proved a remarkable success. conflagration to consume the leaf you would find the ash red instead of gray allowed to become fully ripe, yet when it which leads to the theory that jorro land is picked and cured it will be no darker contains iron. Perhaps it does. But it is than a green claro wrapper. It will, a curious fact that in the never to be however, be lustrous and full of the esattacked the whole Cuban crop. So it would seem to be due to something besides from in the soil.

factory eigar, while a fine wrapper will redeem a decidedly inferior filler. Every eigar is a blend Leaf from as many as forty different plantations comes to the land the blending for the leading Havana factories. Every famous brand of cigars is based on a distinctive leaf from certain vegas which gives it its parent blend. A brand is sometimes made in as many as two hundred different currents of taste. It is something like putting one shand under the bathtub faucet when both turned on simultaneously. One gets little separate streams of hot and of cold here and there instead of perfectly blended warm water.

made in as many as two hundred different sizes and shapes, but this parent blend gives the distinctive flavor characteristic of them all.

On this parent blend is built up an individual variation for every one of the 200 vitolas, as the vacrous shapes are called A dozen varieties of leaf may be incorporated in a single perfecto, the finest eigars seldom containing two leaves from the same plantation. And as no group is ever exactly the same from year to year the blending is never a fixed farmula but must be gone through anew every season.

Wrapper leaves being of the utmost importance in determining the quality of a cigar the aim of every plantation is to secure as many of these leaves as a sonia Clara, do not produce them ail. In Vielta Abilot the yields much higher than enywhere else, especially since American blend for a size of the produced of all the original separate flavors. After a cigar has thus mattured it is at its best if properly taken care of for a year two; then slowly determined. It isn't even known which fillers determined. It isn't even known which fillers determined. It isn't even known which fillers are therefore put away for a few years until, as the experts say, all the produced in palm leaves and are protected warm water. So it is with a fresh cigar and the best warm water.

So it is with a fresh cigar and the best are weaker or wrappers and which fillers. The bales are stored in the vaults of the warm water.

So it is with a fresh cigar and the best are weaker or wrappers and which fillers. The bales are stored in the vaults of the warm water.

So it is with a fresh cigar and the best are very say, all the produced of the prod

The slow of the making of Havana have introduced scientific methods of esting details. Yet not one in a thousand yield in that district was formerly only of the men who smoke, or think they are 30 per cent. of the total, the Americans smoking, a "pure Havana" really knows have raised it in many cases to as high as 90 per cent.

The Cuban connoisseur prefers a rich, in Havana; but not all cigars made in dark tobacco. This is called maduro, Havana are the best in the world. And meaning ripe. But the foreign smoker what's more, plenty of so-called Havana somehow got the impression that a dark only excuse for assuming the Havana was necessarily mild. This led to a great halo is that they contain some tobacco demand for claro, or light colored, wrapnat was grown on the island.

The real Havana cigar is made in that really depends on its filler and the only eity and entirely of Cuban tobacco. But way of finding a brand whose strength even then its quality depends on many suits one's individual taste is to smoke things, the first and most important being different brands until the right one is dis-

When the demand for these light colored Rio, a district whose name, Vuelta Abajo. leaves occurring naturally in the Vuelta Abajo crop to satisfy the call for them. But that wasn't for long, so the expedient was soon tried of cutting immature leaves. resin that fills the cells of a ripe leaf and rom certain plantations, or vegas, which gives it the dark, glossy surface mis-ty some combination of soil, water and takenly supposed in this country to indion earth. This finest product brings known as the green claro wrapper and can be recognized by its dull, dry surface.

When American methods were introduced in Vuelta Abajo perhaps the most important change was the adoption of shade growing, the cultivation of the a brown, oily, glossy leaf is produced, the ideal quality. Not a stone's continuous roof over fields many acres in extent. One American tobacco company operating in the district spends \$75,000 a year for cheesecloth! But it pays. The plants grow twice as high as they formerly did. Under old conditions repriate resemblance, for while a cigar all but eight leaves were pinched off each plant, but under the cheesecloth shelter the plants will mature from fifteen to twenty leaves.

From the point of view of satisfying Tobacco produced in that way may be leaf. It combines mildness with true

Fifty Years Since Czar Alexander II. Set the Russian Serfs Free.

anxiety was mingled in the celebration joicing.
of the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of the Russian serfs at St. Peters-

ress Church were patrolled by large eration in the establishment of peasant cheeks of the Czal's coachman. And numbers of police spies. The day, how proprietors. ever, ended in harmony, except that the Old Prince Meschtchersky, proprietor the Czar's own eyes as he stood up in his

St. Peterseurg, March 5.—A sense of boycotted the official programme of re-| ander II. proclaimed the seris free, tells

Stolypin on the accession was notable burg. The Czar and his Ministers spent chiefly for its colorlessness. The word square, where there was a great crowd, the early part of the day in attending had gone forth beforehand that there he writes. "I began to weep at the sight masses for the soul of Alexander II., should be no exaggerated celebration. of such fervent, pious devotion to the Czar the Czar Liberator, and the report was The conservative quarters adopted the "Those-nearest him kissed his cloak. widely circulated that a revolutionary view set forth by Mr. Menchikoff in the Some managed to kiss his hand. Women attempt was to be expected from some of Novoe Vremya that the Russian peasant held up their children and cried, Bless the expelled students of St. Petersburg serfs were never treated as slaves. The them, Czar-Father!' Others stood per-The streets and squares near the Winter for their good will in helping the work the Czar. Palace, the Kazan Cathedral and the Fort- of liberation and for their present coop-

radical press and party organizations of the Grashdanin, who was 22 when Alex-carriage and looked around him.

how he caw the Czar read his manifesto The Czar's rescript to Prime Minister on St. Isaac's Square.

"I was close beside the Czar in the

Czar thanked the land owning nobility feetly still and wept as they looked at



forgotten year of 1877 this strange blight sential oil characteristic of a ripe (maduro) PHOTOGRAPH OF A GROUP OF PEASANTS HAVING THE CZAR'S PROCLAMATION OF FREEDOM READ TO THEM. THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN FOR ALEXANDER II. BY DENIER, ST. PETERSBURG.

High fine while Cube I was an indimense with true lakes into mitter where a size of as to execute the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the market as soon as possible, that they wouldn't burn. They are the late of the

Next the tobacco is sorted and baled.

and search for growing tobacco is contractionally wearstine to all it is an extended to the contraction of the second of the second and the second of the se

vitola they are absolutely the same in measurement. The modelling must all he done in the rolling: for if he tried to pinch or pull it into shape after it was finished the tobacco would not be evenly distributed and the cigar wouldn't burn. Nothing can be used to hold the leaves in place except a touch of gum tragacanth, mixed fresh twice a day, at the tip, where as a rule it is bitten off by the smoker.

In this country girls can learn to make cigars with a mold and a binder in a few months. In Cuba the simplest shapes require two or three years apprentice-

few months. In Cuba the simplest shapes require two or three years apprentice-ship and a tabaquero will sometimes be ten years in perfecting his making of a difficult shape.

He is well paid and well treated, however. Some of them receive \$6 or \$7 a day for making only twenty-five or thirty cigars. Few Havana workmen make work than the correction day.

more than 100 perfectos a day. Most of them work by the piece and keep their own hours, except that they never work by artificial light. Sometimes they begin at daylight, stopping at 10 A. M. for the Spanish breakfast followed by a nap. At 11:30 everybody gets busy again, but by 3 or 4 o'clock they begin to knock off.

It is and has always been a tabaquero's

It is and has always been a tabaquero's privilege to smoke as much as he wishes. The factories serve each workman with five wrappers daily of a quality put into fifteen cent brands and he rolls his own cigars, using a filler of choice blends. If he asks for more wrappers he gets them. A tabaquero who turns out 100 cigars a day smokes enough more material to have added another ten to his output. This is regarded as part of his wages.

By R. F. FOSTER Author of "Poster's Complete Hoyle.

R. F. Foster, the Sun's card expert, whose "Auction Bridge" has been the American authority on the game for two years, has revised the book to date. Besides its helpful instructions on tactics, it contains the official American laws recently adopted.

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The Partner in Auction Bridge ____

Not Easy to Find Two Who Work in Harmony.

the opportunities for misunderstanding are almost limitless.

to say something when there is no necessity for it, that he will insist on pulling the declarer out of a place in which he is

sity for it, that he will insist on pulling the declarer out of a place in which he is very comfortable, and that he is too selfish in his desire to get the contract and play the hand.

There is undoubtedly more virtue in keeping quiet than there is in bidding when you are posing as a good partner, and among good players passing means a great deal and sounds a note of warning that nothing else could convey. A partner who can be depended upon to pass persistently when he has nothing in his hand but length, and to make his first bids on nothing but winning cards, is a foundation on which great things may be built.

One of our leading authorities recommends a special course of training for putting the partner in good humor at the beginning of the rubber. If A cuts the lowest card and B is his partner it often happens that B hastens to express his opinion about the seats or the cards, although he has no legitimate choice in the

way, because if he does not, and the rub-ber starts off badly, B will at once attribute it to having taken the wrong seats and the matter will so obsess him that he will make bad breaks through inattention or will lose his nerve and decline to bid up his hands for what they are worth.

The inference is that he must have the diamonds stopped, so every one passes and the declaration is set for two tricks, not necessary that both players should follow the same system, but it is very necessary that each should understand the system upon which the other proceeds.

The inference is that he must have the diamonds stopped, so every one passes and the declaration is set for two tricks, because the leader had five diamonds and his partner had seven. The fourth player, being a good partner and knowing diamonds would be led, kept quiet when the third hand went two no trumps, although the could have doubled, which would have frightened the dealer into hearts.

likely to lead to serious loss is when one partner persist in naming suits in which he has not a certain trick, such as the ace, or at least king and queen, and the other partner is counting upon those winning cards and bidding accordingly.

For some psychological reason, so far unexplained, some players cannot keep still when they have a suit of six or seven red cards. They resent it as an insult

and B to pull his partner out of an imaginary danger bids one heart. Z knows enough to keep quiet, but when it gets round to Y he doubles one heart.

At this stage if B knew that his partner was bidding on a lot of trash he might have pulled himself out of the deubled heart and gone two diamonds spite of Y's double in that suit; but he argues that if A has a trick or two in diamonds he can carry out his one rick heart contract, so he passes.

Z passes and smiles. Now if A had a sure trick in diamonds he could bid two tricks and make it, but with his one trick bid doubled and his partner's shift to the heart suit also doubled he is afraid to make any further move and the hand is played at one heart doubled. A and B

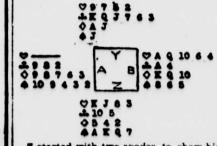
being set for 200 points, with simple honors offset by chicane.

This loss is entirely due to the want of understanding between A and B. The first bid misleads B, who thinks A has at least one trick in diamonds to support a heart bid, which looks better than a doubled diamond, and it will be found is

Nothing is more common than to have a contract fail just because the partner cannot win a sure and early trick in the suit he calls on the first round of the bids. That one trick may alter the whole plan of the hand, as will be evident from the way the same hand went at each the way the same hand went at the way the wa of the hand, as will be evident from the way this same hand went at another table. Z started with the same spade bid, but A passed and Y, to pull his partner out of the spade, called one in hearts. This B doub'ed and Y-Z were set for one trick, so that A and B won 100 points instead of losing 200, the difference in the result, with the same cards and the same suit for trumps being in the result.

with the same cards and the same suit for trumps, being in the way A bid his hand and the way the lead came.

While one of the faults most commonly found with the partner is that he overcalls his cards, there are occasions upon which such a proceeding is distinctly justifiable. Here is a strikingly instructive example of such a situation, which came up at the Bridge Club the other day:



There is probably no game of cards and which one is so much at the mercy of the partner as at auction bridge, and the opportunities for misunderstanding are almost limitless.

The principal faults that are found with the partner are that he is too eager to say something when there is no necessity for it, that he will insist on pulling between the partner are that he is no necessity for it, that he will insist on pulling of sitting still in a position in which nine players out of the would have doubled the dealers out of a place in which he is

although he has no legitimate choice in the matter.

If A wishes to make a good beginning and is not rabidly superstitious himself it will usually pay him to let B have his way, because if he does not, and the rub-four hearts to the acc. four club, and the rub-four hearts to the acc. four club, and the rub-four hearts to the acc. four club, and the rub-four hearts to the acc.

two no trumps.
What on?
The inference is that he must have the

he could have doubled, which would have frightened the dealer into hearts.

The cards on which the third hand increased his partner's bid were the king queen, jack of hearts, five clubs to the king, queen, four spades to the jack and one diamond. He excused the call by saying that he supposed his partner must have a stopper in diamonds. What he should have done was to show his trick taking suit by calling two hearts and leaving it to his partner to go the two no trumps if he had the diamonds stopped instead of passing judgment on the situation himself.

Here is an example of the other way

one diamond.

Y doubles one diamond, chiefly to show his partner that he has the suit stopped, he partner that he has the suit stopped, and B to pull his partner out of an imagination of the stopped by the state of the same thing as when the suit stopped, and B to pull his partner out of an imagination of the same than the

ble for bridge players to grasp.

If your partner has a no-trumper a you can stop the suit declared against how do you know but what your partner; hand may be much better fitted for defeating a two trick contract than for carrying out one of his own? The person who is the best judge of this is the original but the ace of diamonds in your hand go on to two no trumps you are probably cheating your partner out of an excellent opportunity to score heavily in penalties. His being the strong hand, he is the player to whom the decision should be left as to whether to go on with his no trumper or to defeat the two trick contract in red. By doubling you leave either course open to him.

An amusing instance of the folly of this system of increasing the partner's bid just because you can stop the inter-

heart bid, which looks better than a doubled diamond, and it will be found if we transpose the ace and queen of diamonds, so as to give A one certain trick in the suit, that B will make two by cards in hearts very easily.

Nothing is more common than to have a contract fail just because the partner cannot win a sure and early trick in the bid cost them 300 points, as they were him out. The player who had bid three clubs had not a club in his hand, but had shrewdly judged that if the dealer had nothing to say, his partner having shut him out. The player who had bid three clubs stopped he would go on to two no trumps, and then the eight winning declaration, as the dealer had nothing to say, his partner having shut him out. The player who had bid three clubs stopped he would go on to two no trumps, and then the eight winning diamonds in him out. The player who had bid three clubs stopped he would go on to two no trumps, and then the eight winning declaration, as the dealer had shrewdly judged that if the dealer had shre

bid cost them 300 points, as they were set for three tricks, doubled. Had the third hand doubled, as he should have done, leaving it to his part-

Chilean Sail Railway.

From the Chicago Tribune.
A remarkable railway is that between Antofagasta and Orouro in Chile. As engineer in charge of some importan lovernment coast improvements took a vantage of the trade winds which preva-in these regions. Finding that during sev eral hours in the morning and evening the was a stiff breeze blowing he had a lar-number of fair sized box cars built whi-not only accommodated the men cotain and going from work, but also prov-amply sufficient to transport the material needed for construction of the works. Fair car is provided with a good sized sail—the is no other propelling force. The spec-is regulated by the manipulation of braic-and to prevent accidents large buffers at provided.

On account of its cheapness and practice.

provided.
On account of its cheapness and practic worth the idea of sail railways has been popular and a number are now being a stalled between many small towns along a coast where the trade winds blow with clouke regularity. The average speed a tained by these strange craft is about that to forty miles an hour.